

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus for acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored and communicating with a management apparatus, the monitoring apparatus comprising:

an e-mail unit configured to carry out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

a receiving unit configured to receive an update instruction e-mail containing the second modules and an install script;

a processing unit configured to be operable when said e-mail unit has received the update e-mail containing the second modules and the install script for updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, from the management apparatus by e-mail, to automatically update the first modules in operation to the second modules, wherein said processing unit is configured to activate the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving unit, and to update the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving unit;

an information collecting unit configured to collect version information on the first modules when said e-mail unit has received a version information acquisition request from the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a returning unit configured to send the version information collected by said information collecting unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

2. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising, wherein:

[[a]] said receiving unit is also configured to receive an update instruction e-mail containing at least the second modules and an install script, and an acquisition request e-mail requesting acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole,

wherein said processing unit is configured to activate the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving unit, and to update the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received by said receiving unit, and said information collecting unit is configured to collect the version information in response to the acquisition request e-mail received by said receiving unit, and said returning

unit is configured to send the version information collected by said information collecting unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

3. *(Previously Presented)* A monitoring apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a decoding unit configured to decode contents of an e-mail received by said e-mail unit, and wherein said processing unit is configured to interpret an instruction from the management apparatus from the contents of the received e-mail decoded by said decoding unit, and to perform processing according to the interpreted contents of the e-mail.

4-8. *(Cancelled)*

9. *(Currently Amended)* A control method executed by a monitoring apparatus that acquires information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicates with a management apparatus, the method comprising:

    a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

a receiving step of receiving an update instruction e-mail containing the second modules and an install script;

    a processing step of automatically updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to the second modules for updating the first modules when the update instruction e-mail containing the second modules and the install script is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step, wherein said processing step activates the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and to update the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step;

    an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when a version information acquisition request is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

    a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return mail.

10. (*Currently Amended*) A control method according to claim 9, further comprising wherein:

[[a]] said receiving step of receiving an update instruction e-mail containing at least the second modules and an install script, and also receives an acquisition request e-mail requesting acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole,

wherein said processing step comprises activating the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and updating the first modules in-operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and said information collecting step comprises collecting the version information in response to the acquisition request e-mail received in said receiving step, and said returning step comprises sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return e-mail.

11. (*Previously Presented*) A control method according to claim 9, further comprising a decoding step of decoding contents of an e-mail received in said communication step, and wherein said processing step comprises interpreting an instruction from the management apparatus from the contents of the received e-mail decoded in said decoding step, and performing processing according to the interpreted contents of the e-mail.

12-16. (*Canceled*)

17. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for executing a control method implemented by a monitoring apparatus that acquires information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicates with a management apparatus, the method comprising:

a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail;

a receiving step of receiving an update instruction e-mail containing the second modules and an install script;

a processing step of automatically updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to the second modules for updating the first modules when the update instruction e-mail containing the second modules and the install script is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step, wherein said processing step

activates the install script contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step, and to update the first modules in operation to the second modules contained in the update instruction e-mail received in said receiving step;

an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when a version information acquisition request is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return mail.

18. (Canceled)

19. (*Currently Amended*) A monitoring apparatus for acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored and communicating with a management apparatus, the monitoring apparatus comprising:

an e-mail unit configured to carry out communication with the management apparatus by email;

a processing unit configured to be operable when said e-mail unit has received an update instruction e-mail containing ~~at least~~ second modules for updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, and an install script from the management apparatus, to automatically update the first modules in operation to the second modules corresponding to description of the install script;

an information collecting unit configured to collect version information on the first modules when said e-mail unit has received an acquisition request e-mail that requests acquisition of the version information on the first modules from the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a returning unit configured to send the version information collected by said information collecting unit to the management apparatus by return e-mail,

wherein the install script includes at least one or more commands which are executable in an operating system including said processing unit in the monitoring apparatus.

20. (*Previously Presented*) A monitoring apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the acquisition request e-mail requests acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole.

21. (*Currently Amended*) A control method executed by a monitoring apparatus that acquires information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicates with a management apparatus, the method comprising:

    a communication step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by email;

    a processing step of automatically updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to second modules corresponding to description of [[the]] an install script when an update instruction e-mail containing at least the second modules for updating first modules and [[an]] the install script [[are]] is received from the management apparatus in said communication step;

    an information collecting step of collecting version information on the first modules when an acquisition request e-mail that requests acquisition of the version information on the first modules is received from the management apparatus by e-mail in said communication step; and

    a returning step of sending the version information collected in said information collecting step to the management apparatus by return e-mail,

    wherein the install script includes at least one or more commands which are executable in an operating system including said processing step in the monitoring apparatus.

22. (*Previously Presented*) A control method according to claim 21, wherein the acquisition request e-mail requests acquisition of the version information indicative of versions of respective ones of the first modules in the monitoring apparatus and a version of the monitoring apparatus as a whole.

23. (New) A monitoring apparatus for acquiring information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored and communicating with a management apparatus, the monitoring apparatus comprising:

an e-mail unit configured to carry out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a processing unit configured to be operable when said e-mail unit has received an update instruction e-mail containing second modules for updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, and an install script from the management apparatus, to automatically update the first modules in operation to the second modules corresponding to description of the install script,

wherein said processing unit starts the updating at either one of first timing when said first modules does not start in accordance with the description of the install script, second timing when said first modules are caused to stop, third timing when said first module finishes executing, or fourth timing when said monitoring apparatus has just restarted.

24. (New) A control method executed by a monitoring apparatus that acquires information by communication from at least one image forming apparatus to be monitored, and communicates with a management apparatus, the method comprising:

an e-mail step of carrying out communication with the management apparatus by e-mail; and

a processing step of automatically updating first modules, on which the monitoring apparatus operates, in operation to second modules corresponding to description of an install script, when said e-mail step has received an update instruction e-mail containing the second modules for updating the first modules and the install script from the management apparatus,

wherein said processing step starts the updating at either one of first timing when said first modules does not start in accordance with the description of the install script, second timing when said first modules are caused to stop, third timing when said first module finishes executing, or fourth timing when said monitoring apparatus has just restarted.